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[data], and outputs the analog audio [data] to an output apparatus; an external recording circuit section 18, which records compressed digital audio [data] stored in the RAM 16 into an external recording medium 18A, reads out compressed digital audio [data] output from the [external] recording medium 18A, and stores the [data] digital audio into the RAM 16.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 as follows (clean copies of the amended claims are presented in Appendix 2).

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Claim 1. (Once Amended) An audio playback/recording apparatus comprising:

an audio input processing section, which receives analog audio data, and converts said analog audio data to digital audio data;

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a playback/recording processing section having a compression section which compresses said digital audio data [output from said audio input processing section] and stores into a RAM said compressed digital audio data and attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data [into a RAM], and having an expansion section which decompresses compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM based on the attribution data [indicating a type of a compression of said
20 **compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM**];

an audio output processing section, which receives decompressed digital audio data [output from said playback/recording processing section], converts said decompressed digital audio data to analog audio data, and outputs said analog audio data to an output apparatus;

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an external recording circuit section, which records compressed digital audio data [stored in said RAM] into an external recording medium, and reads out compressed digital audio data from said external recording medium, and stores said readout data into said RAM.

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Claim 2. (Once amended) An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a general-purpose interface circuit section, which transfers digital

audio data and attribution data [indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data] to an external apparatus [connected thereto] from said external recording medium, and which receives digital audio data from said external apparatus and transfers digital audio data and attribution data [indication a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data] to said external recording medium.

Claim 4. (Once Amended) An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section [comprising] comprises:

- a) an encryption section which encrypts said digital audio data,
- b) a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data,
- c) an authorization data generation section, which generates authorization data sent to said external apparatus [connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section], and
- d) an authorization data verification section, which verifies authorization data sent from said external apparatus [connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section].

Claim 5. (Once Amended) An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section [comprising] comprises:

- a) an encryption section which encrypts digital audio data,
- b) a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data,
- c) an authorization data writing section which writes authorization data into digital audio data transferred to said external apparatus [connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section], and
- d) an authorization data extraction section which extracts authorization data from digital audio data received from said external apparatus [connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section].

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are active in the application.